

22 May 72

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ALTMANN - DENIAL

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA, MAY 22, REUTER -- BOLIVIAN INTERIOR MINISTER MARIO ADEI ZAMORA SAID TONIGHT THAT BUSINESSMAN KLAUS ALTMANN HAD PERSONALLY DENIED TO HIM THAT HE WAS KLAUS BARBIE, THE WARTIME GESTAPO CHIEF IN LYONS, FRANCE.

THE BRAZILIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND FRANCE ARE DUE TO BEGIN CARRYING A 10,000-WORD REPORT TOMORROW CLAIMED TO BE BASED ON ADMISSIONS BY ALTMANN THAT HE IS THE WANTED NAZI WAR CRIMINAL.

IN SAO PAULO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEWSPAPER SAID THE ARTICLES WERE WRITTEN FROM TAPED INTERVIEWS WITH ALTMANN, A NATURALIZED BOLIVIAN WHO LIVES IN LA PAZ.

COLONEL ZAMORA SAID HERE THAT HE HAD CALLED ALTMANN TO HIS OFFICE TODAY TO CLARIFY REPORTS OF THE ARTICLES, AND THAT ALTMANN HAD SAID THE ALLEGED REVELATIONS WERE NOT AUTHENTIC AND HE WAS NOT BARBIE.

(THE NEWSPAPER SAID IN SAO PAULO THAT IT HAD ABSOLUTE PROOF THE DOCUMENT WAS AUTHENTIC AND ALTMANN, 56, HAD SIGNED EACH PAGE.)

REUTER AS/MJ 2323

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